knowledge of any man, took the fellow, bound him and 1 him in a little chamber, and leaving him there with his gold had hasted to make his Majesty advertised thereof Aft further discourse the King began to suspect that it was some foreign com brought in by practising Papists and that the fellow was a Scots priest or a seminary so disguised

Whereupon the King resolved to send back a servant of his own with Mr Ruthven, with a warrant to the Provost and bailiffs of St Johnstone to receive both the fellow and his money and to retain them till his further pleasure was known At this Mr Alexander stirred marvellously, protesting that if either the Lord his brother or the bailiffs of the town knew of it his Majesty would get a very bad count made to him of that treasure, and earnestly begged the King to nde thither at once to see for himself

The King was stricken in great admiration both at the uncouthness of the tale and the strange behaviour of the relator , but the Court being already horsed and the game found, he was forced to break off, saying that he would consider of the matter and at the end of his chase give a resolute answer , and so hasted towards the place where the game was Mr Alexander, parting from the Kmg very miscontent at his Majesty's long delay and slowness of resolution, then sent one of the men that were with Kim to ride in haste to the Earl to advertise him that he hoped to move his Majesty to come to St Johnstone, and that he should not expect him for the space of three hours

Meantime the Kmg could not stay from musing and wondering upon the news, and sent to bring Mr Alexander to him again, to whom he said that he was now

resolved to nde with him on that errand in his own person, so soon as the chase was done

The chase lasted from about 7 of the clock until **ir,** all which rime Mr Alexander was ever at the King's back, earnestly requesting him to hasten the end of the hunting so that he might the sooner ride to St Johnstone The buck being killed, the King by his importunities was persuaded to ride at once with him, and such was their haste that very few accompanied the King when he reached St. Johnstone

When they were within a mile of St Johnstone, Mr Alex-